The hon. Sir K. SRINIVASA AYYANGAR :—" I can only refer the hon. Member to the section of the Indian Police Act relating to this matter."

Diwan Bahadur M. RAMACHANDRA RAO PANTULU :—" Sir, I know the section in the Indian Police Act. But the question is whether the Government have made any enquiries as to why this tax was imposed on this particular individual."

The hon. Sir K. SRINIVASA AYYANGAR :—" I have nothing more to add, Sir, to the answer I have already given."

Diwan Bahadur M. RAMACHANDRA RAO PANTULU :—" May I take it, Sir, that the hon. the Law Member declines to tell us what is asked for ? "

The hon. Sir K. SRINIVASA AYYANGAR :—" I have not declined to tell the House anything, but I consider that the answer already given covers this point."

Diwan Bahadur M. RAMACHANDRA RAO PANTULU :—" Does the hon. the Law Member wish to say that there are reasons assigned as to why this gentleman was subjected to this tax ? "

Presidents of district boards.

673 *Q.*—Mr. V. HAMID SULTAN MARAKKAYAR : Will the hon. the Minister for Local Self-Government be pleased to state—

(*a*) how many of the district board presidents in the Presidency are now being elected by the board and in how many cases the presidents are appointed by the Government ; and

(*b*) in how many cases the requests from the district boards for permission for the grant of the privilege of electing their presidents were refused, when and for what reasons in each case ?

A.—(*a*) Of the 24 district board presidents, two are elected by the boards and the rest are appointed by Government.

(*b*) Applications for electing their presidents were received during 1921 and 1922 from four district boards, but they were rejected on the ground that the applications were premature.

Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR :—" When would the hon. the Minister consider such applications not to be premature, Sir ? How many years later if these applications are renewed would he consider them not premature ? "

The hon. the RAJA OF PANAGAL :—" Each question as it comes before the Government will be considered on its merits. It is impossible to say when any particular application can be considered not premature. Each case will have to be examined as it comes."

Sriman BISWANATH DAS Mahasayo :—" May I know the data on which such a conclusion is based with reference to answer (*b*), viz., that the applications were premature ? "

The hon. the RAJA OF PANAGAL :—" Sir, I am afraid the question refers to a matter of opinion."